

Problematizing in-class activities

Activity	Mini challenge	Sample criteria
Titles, headlines or captions	Create a great headline. Which of these is the best title for the paragraph? Revise the supplied caption for the picture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informative • catchy/intriguing • concise • playful
Main idea	What are the five most important ideas in this paragraph? Which of these is the better plot summary of this story? Prepare an effective précis of the chapter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant to the topic or issue • contains key ideas • concisely noted • written in own words
Supporting details	Decide which one of the four paragraphs is bogus? Which of the following statements are likely true (false) given the information provided?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seems plausible • consistent with other information
Perspective taking	Rewrite the story from another character's point of view. Draw the picture (describe the situation) from another point of view.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • true to the facts • plausible • shows insight into character
Inferring	What can we conclude about the object from the clues? What can we conclude about the character from her actions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistent with clues • plausible given other information
Problems	Which of the two ways of solving the problem is the better? Which method of estimation is superior?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • efficient • effective • reliable/ sustainable • ethical
Questions	Ask a powerful question of a fictional character or of an historical figure, and then provide the answer Which question asked of the guest speaker was the most effective? Create a great exam question on an assigned topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informative • relevant/timely • probing/insightful/ requires thinking
Comparisons	What is the biggest difference between our community and a past (or other) community? Which of the listed effects has been the most significant?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • magnitude (how deep/significant) • frequency (how often) • scope (how widespread)
Presentations	Design an outline of an effective poster. Prepare the outline for a persuasive essay. Which of these is the most effective presentation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • catchy/ appealing • informative/ persuasive • clear/well organized • accurate